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COUNTRY Anglo-Egyptian Sudan

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British Policy of Strengthening SUBJECT Influence of Local Tribal Chiefs

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



- The Sudan Government has aimed at having the local administration as far as possible in the hands of native Sudanese tribal chiefs under government supervision. The protection of the authority and prestige of the local nazirs and sheikhs has gained their support of British policies. In January 1947 the Government, anxious to foster the separatist movement of Abd-al-Rahman al-Mahdi, appealed to the tribal chiefs to support the Mahdi. In reply, they expressed confidence in the government and endorsed the independence movement of the Mahdi. Even minor sheikhs fell in line, thus strengthening Britain's position in the Anglo-Egyptian dispute and later at the UN Security Council, when Egypt's claims with regard to the Sudan came up for consideration.
- In recognition of the valuable service rendered by the tribal chiefs, and to insure the continuation of their policies, the British Administration has intensified its practice of holding tribal celebrations in honor of the chiefs. The following tribal gatherings have occurred since the start of 1948:
 - The Magdumate tribal gathering parade, held at Myala in February 1948.
 - The Bisharin tribal gathering at Halsib in March 1948.
 - c) The Hawliyah colebration hold in Suakin in the presence of 20,000
 - Meeting of Amarai tribesmen held at Salloum in April.
 - e) The District Commissioners of Malakal, Renk and Singa held a joint festivity in Upper Nile Province in May.
- In addition to tribal gatherings, it is customary for top government officials to make regular tours of the provinces to confer with chiefs as part of the over-all British strategy. Governor General Sir Robert Howe visited the Province of Kordofan in February. Civil Secretary Sir James Robertson toured Equatoria Province in May, visiting chiefs in every town. After returning to Khartoum

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he departed for Darfur Province. He was scheduled to visit Merit, Adrur, Kutum, and Fatahume and expected to meet Melik Muhamma Sayal of Mirdeb and Mag/hun Yusuf Muhammad Sharif, native tribal chiefs.

- 4. At tribal gatherings and during visits of government officials, decorations and special honors have been bestowed on tribal chiefs in the mame of the King of England. Common rewards are the King's African medals for chiefs, and special robes of honor. In addition to the chiefs who are members of the Northern Sudan Advisory Council and who already had decorations or citations, the following have been honored and are therefore expected to support the government's policies:
 - a) Sheikh Zubayr Hamad al-Malik, Dongola District.
 - b) Shartai Daw-al-Bayt abd-al-Dayon, local authority for Eastern Darfur Province.
 - c) Sheikh Haroum Umar Ahmad of Um-Ruwaba, Kordofan Province.
 - d) Sheikh Yahya Ahmad Umar of Um-Ruwaba.
 - e) Mak Bakhirt Koko of Korongo, Dilling.
 - f) Maks of Nyimang and Tukma confederations.
 - g) Sheikh Babu Bimr Osman, Nazir of Kordofan Province.
 - h) Sheikhs Muhammad Fadlallah, Muhammad Dafallah and Khorgos Miridi of Kordofan Province.
 - Sheikh Muhammad Mahmud, Sheikh Khutt of Odi Area, Hadondowa tribes.
 - j) Sheikh Musa Yagub, Nazir of Southern Khutt.

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